

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2019-08-25 through 2019-08-31



### Cameroon

**Event:** Two priests were abducted in [Kumbo, Bui department](#) on [August 15, 2019](#) by armed insurgents; **UPDATE:** released

Fr Franklin Banadzem Dindzee

Fr Patrick Atang

Date: [August 18, 2019](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66509->

[AFRICA CAMEROON The two priests of Kumbo whose Bishop had denounced the violence against civilians have been released](#)

Angus Abraham Fung (aged over 60, Bible translator, **killed** by machete wielding Fulani Muslim herdsmen along with six others, wife survived the attack but lost an arm)

Date: [August 18, 2019](#)

Location: [Wum](#)

Pastor Keloh Elijah (**killed** by the military)

Location: [Mfumte area](#)

Date: [May 2019](#)

Source: [https://www.christianpost.com/news/bible-translator-butchered-to-death-in-cameroon-wifes-arm-chopped-](https://www.christianpost.com/news/bible-translator-butchered-to-death-in-cameroon-wifes-arm-chopped-off.html?uid=09e0ec8da6&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=4eab6723b7-)

[off.html?uid=09e0ec8da6&utm\\_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm\\_campaign=4eab6723b7-](#)

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### Finland

Dr Paivi Maria Rasanen (aged 59, Member of Parliament, **UPDATE:** subject of a police investigation after she criticized her church in a June 17, 2019 tweet for supporting Pride

events, prosecution is unlikely due to the legal requirements necessary to strip her of her parliamentary immunity)

Date reported: August 24, 2019

Source: <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/anti-christian-persecution-in-finland/>



## India

### **Event: Forty Christian pilgrims were attacked by Hindu radicals**

Bishop Devadass Ambrose Mariadoss (condemned the attack: "This action carried out by Hindu radicals was completely senseless and gratuitous. Indian citizens are free to practice their religion according to the constitutional provisions of India. But this freedom has been reduced in recent times, as evidenced by the incident)

Fr L Sahayaraj (Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council deputy secretary, condemned the attack)

Date: August 18, 2019

Location: on the road to Velankanni, Tamil Nadu state

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66506->

[ASIA INDIA Violence by a group of radical Hindu extremists against Catholic pilgrims](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66506-ASIA_INDIA_Violence_by_a_group_of_radical_Hindu_extremists_against_Catholic_pilgrims)

Saree (aged 12, alias, convert, healed of a hearing impediment at a church prayer meeting at age 11 before her conversion, repeatedly beaten by her father and brother when she continued to attend church, disowned by her family in part out of fear of persecution, said "I want to leave Him. But I can't. There's something there...")

Date reported: August 23, 2019

Source: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/i-was-only-11-beaten-and-left-on-the-streets-indian-girl-refuses-to-leave-jesus/>

Fr Abraham D'Souza SVD (retreat center director, accused of a forced conversion by a prominent Hindu nationalist, said the Hindu in question had come to the center voluntarily and had not converted: "There is absolutely no conversion. No baptism. He wants to come again too. This is false, baseless and motivated allegations")

Archbishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE**: defended Fr Abraham D'Souza)

Date: August 30, 2019

Location: Mulki, Karnataka state

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2019/08/hindu-nationalists-accuse-catholic-retreat-center-of-forced-conversions/>



## Iran

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 40, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, attacked by police during an early morning raid on his home in [Rasht](#) on [July 22, 2018](#), incapacitated with an electroshock weapon and then beaten, arrested; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Date: August 24, 2019

Location: Evin Prison, Teheran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/?p=34498>



## Ivory Coast

Faustine Brou N'Guessan (aged 60, church secretary, mother, **stabbed** in her parish office, hospitalized, **died**)

Date: August 10, 2019

Location: Sainte-Cecile du Vallon parish

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66495->

[AFRICA IVORY COAST Church calls for justice for Faustine Brou N Guessan parish secretary killed in her office](#)



## Mexico

Fr Jose Martin Guzman Vega (aged 55. **stabbed** at his parish, hospitalized, **died**)

Date: August 22, 2019

Location: Matamoros

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66518->

[AMERICA MEXICO Violent death of a priest the Church demands justice](#)  
and <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-bishops-call-for-justice-following-murder-of-priest-90245>



## Nicaragua

Fr Edwin Roman (**UPDATE**: church surrounded by paramilitaries and national riot police during a Mass for political prisoners)

Date: August 28, 2019

Location: Masaya

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66535->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Community calls for the release of political prisoners a church besieged by police](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66535-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Community_calls_for_the_release_of_political_prisoners_a_church_besieged_by_police)



## Nigeria

Fr David Tanko ('young' priest, **killed** by a Tiv militia while traveling to a peace meeting between Tiv and Jukun ethnic groups)

Date: August 29, 2019

Location: on the way to the village of Takum

Source: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/08/30/nigerian-priest-killed-as-car-set-ablaze/>



## Pakistan

Maqbool Masih (slum resident, reported on the attempts of two Muslim brothers who have attempted to force Christians from their land which have included turning off water and causing sewage overflows: "The two brothers threaten to take our lands through their land grabbing henchmen. Christians have lived in this area for 125 years. The area is owned by the federal government who assigned them this area, declaring it a shanty [Katchi Abadi] town for the poor")

Date: August 27, 2019

Location: Pakki Mar, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Thirty-Christian-families-threatened-with-expropriation-by-influential-Muslim-politicians-in-Faisalabad-47838.html>



## Philippines

Genifer Buckley (aged 24, Jesuit Volunteer, **stabbed to death** in her home)

Anne Kathleen Gatdula (aged 30, Jesuit Volunteer, attorney, stabbed in her home, escaped, hospitalized)

Date: August 23, 2019

Location: Cagayan De Oro City

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66529-ASIA PHILIPPINES Filipino female Jesuit volunteer killed the Church thanks her for the testimony of love and service](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66529-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_Filipino_female_Jesuit_volunteer_killed_the_Church_thanks_her_for_the_testimony_of_love_and_service)

**Event: Abduction charges were brought against Christian leaders, a former Senator, and an attorney**

Fr Albert Alejo SJ (**UPDATE**: charged)

Sr Ling FDCC (charged)

Date: August 30, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Priest-and-nun-accused-of-kidnapping-47872.html>



### Turkey

Ismail Falahati aka Esmaeel Falahati (convert, husband, father of two, Iranian citizen, asylum request deportation order issued, may be deported back to Iran)

Date: August 30, 2019

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/?p=34616>



### United Kingdom

Wilson Chowdhry (aged 44, British Pakistani Christian Association; **UPDATE**: resigned as director of the BPCA before he was implicated in an extramarital scandal)

Date reported: August 16, 2019

Location: London

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/world/uk-watchdog-investigating-concerns-over-pakistani-christian-charity-director-resigns.html>



### United States

**Event: Christian authors and former homosexuals criticized Amazon for refusing to sell books about their conversion stories**

Anne Paulk (said “It is appalling that Amazon has banned books detailing how one struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction can overcome those feelings and steward his or her

sexuality in a biblical fashion, while thinking nothing of selling books that celebrate the kind of deviancy Jeffrey Epstein was accused of”)

Joe Dallas (said "None of us will stop communicating the grace of God evidenced in our lives, and in the lives of those we serve")

Date: August 29, 2019

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-authors-blast-amazon-banning-their-books-selling-pedophilia-titles.html>

### **United States - South Carolina**

Esvin Perez (aged 23, shot in the stomach while praying in church, hospitalized in critical condition)

Pastor Henry Alfaro (witnessed the shooting)

Date: August 25, 2019

Location: Columbus

Source: <https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/1-person-shot-at-columbia-church-by-robber-sunday-morning/101-20e773ee-9fca-4bb3-ab2d-026d5dcadd66>

### **United States - Puerto Rico**

Fr Stanislaw Szczepanik CM (missionary, Polish citizen, **killed in an apparent bicycle accident, police investigation opened after the body was found with suspicious wounds**)

Date: August 18, 2019

Location: Ponce

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66493-AMERICA\\_PUERTO\\_RICO\\_Police\\_are\\_investigating\\_the\\_death\\_of\\_a\\_Polish\\_missionary](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66493-AMERICA_PUERTO_RICO_Police_are_investigating_the_death_of_a_Polish_missionary)

### **United States - Texas**

Andy Schoonover (Austin LifeCare CEO, pro-life women's center damaged with 'Liars' and 'Fake clinic' graffiti, said “We are not surprised. After all, we had a rock thrown through the window just a couple of months back...We are fighting for women and their babies. This just comes with the territory...These folks think that we are trying to lure women into our clinic by convincing them that we provide abortions, then trying to strongarm them into keeping their babies. This is the farthest from the truth. We make it abundantly clear [we neither perform nor refer for abortions] to ensure that we do not mislead our clients. As for the ‘Fake Clinic,’ I invite anyone to come down and see us, meet our R.N., Nurse Practitioner, and RDMS licensed sonographers to see for themselves whether or not we are a fake clinic”)

Date reported: August 30, 2019

Location: Austin

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/vandals-attack-newly-finished-texas-pro-life-pregnancy-center>

## **Today's Martyrs**

*For more information please visit our web site at <https://todaysmartyrs.org/>*

*or write to*

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